

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/069,359

Examiner

MINH-CHAU N. NGUYEN

Applicant(s)

HOVELL ET AL.

Art Unit

2145

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment, filed 07/10/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18 and 21.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


JASON CARDONE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

mn

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

Please vacate Notice of Allowance, filed 08/08/06.

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Larry S. Nixon (Reg. No.: 25,640) on 07/24/06. The application has been amended as follows:

Please amend:

3. Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An interface for use between a first network operating in accordance with a first transmission protocol and having network addresses in accordance with a first addressing convention, herein referred to as first type addresses, and a second network operating in accordance with a second transmission protocol and having network addresses in accordance with a second addressing convention, herein referred to as second type addresses, the interface having both a first type address and a second type address and comprising:

a protocol converter arranged to convert a message having a format in accordance with the first transmission protocol, herein referred to as a first type message, into a

message having a format in accordance with the second transmission protocol, herein referred to as a second type message;

encapsulator arranged to respond to receipt of a second type address together with a first type message by encapsulating that received first type message as the payload of a resulting encapsulating second type message, using that received second type address as the destination address of the resulting encapsulating second type message and using the second type address of the interface as the source address of the resulting encapsulating second type message; and

an interface controller arranged to respond to receipt by the interface of a first type message from the first network by

(a) examining the destination address of that first type message received from the first network to determine whether the first type message is of a format in accordance with the first transmission protocol, and,

(b) if so, sending to the protocol converter that first type message received from the first network, and,

(c) if not, deriving, directly or indirectly, from the destination address of that first type message, a second type address for use by the encapsulating means, and sending to the encapsulating means the derived second type address together with that first type message received from the first network.

4. Claim 21 (Previously Presented) An interface for use between a first network and a second network, the first network having network addresses in accordance with a first

addressing convention, herein referred to as first type addresses, and transmitting messages in accordance with a first transmission protocol, herein referred to as first type message, and the second network having network addresses in accordance with a second addressing convention, herein referred to as second type addresses, and transmitting messages in accordance with a second transmission protocol, herein referred to as second type messages, the interface comprising:

mean for examining the destination address of a first type message received at the interface apparatus from the first network to determine whether the destination address of that received first type message is of a first predetermined format in accordance with the first addressing protocol;

mean for converting protocol responsive to a determination of the examining means that the destination address of that received first type message is of the first predetermined format to convert that received first type message; and

mean for encapsulating responsive to a determination of the examining means that the destination address of that received first type message is not of the first predetermined format to encapsulate that received first type message in accordance with the second transmission protocol, using, as the destination address of a resulting encapsulating second type message, a second type address derived, directly or indirectly, from the destination address of that received first type message.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: None of the prior art references teach (alone or in combination) all the limitations together, within the

independent claims 1,9,10,21. For example, the independent claims contain limitations, “an interface controller arranged to respond to receipt by the interface of a first type message from the first network by (a) examining the destination address of that first type message received from the first network to determine whether the first type message is of a format in accordance with the first transmission protocol, and, (b) if so, sending to the protocol converter that first type message received from the first network, and, (c) if not, deriving, directly or indirectly, from the destination address of that first type message, a second type address for use by the encapsulating means, and sending to the encapsulating means the derived second type address together with that first type message received from the first network”. Applicants’ arguments [filed 07/10/06], pg. 10-13] are considered persuasive to the limitations of this claim over the prior art of record.

Examiner agrees that the limitations of the independent claims are allowable subject matter over the prior art, in light of the specification, with the solution and combination of transmission between domain types by considering the destination address to determine its format and handling the message either by use of the protocol converter or by encapsulation of the message with a derived second type address [Specification, page 6, line 9 – 27]. Most prior art teaches application environments were a narrow specific solution that does not have universal applicability such as only using either converting protocol or encapsulation technique (not select one from the combination techniques under transmission protocol conditions). Therefore, the combination of the limitations, within its environment, is allowable subject matter, in light of the specification and in view of the Applicants’ persuasive arguments. The independent claims 1,9,10,21 (and

their dependent claims) are allowable, since the claim language discloses this combination of limitations in accordance with the specification, over the prior art of record.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
6. Claims 1-18,21 are allowed.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MINH-CHAU N. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)272-4242. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JASON D. CARDONE can be reached on (571) 272-6159. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Examiner: Minh-Chau Nguyen
Art Unit: 2145

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